UNITED NATIONS

UNFCCC Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.
GENERAL

FCCC/SBI/2002/3
3 April 2002

Original: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION
Sixteenth session
Bonn, 10 – 14 June 2002
Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

CONSIDERATION OF THE REVIEWS OF NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM PARTIES INCLUDED IN ANNEX I TO THE CONVENTION

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. At its fifteenth session, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) took note of document FCCC/SBI/2001/INF.7, status report on in-depth reviews, and agreed to give further consideration to this document and to finding optimum ways of conducting the review process and of considering its outcomes at its sixteenth session.[1]

B. Scope of the note

2. This note presents data on trends in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) on the basis of available information reported by these Parties in 2001 in their annual GHG inventory submissions and compiled in document FCCC/SBI/2001/13/Corr.1. These trends cover the period 1990 to 1999 and are used as a reference for the review of the implementation of the Convention by Annex I Parties (see section II). The note also suggests possible ways for advancing the process of consideration of national communications from Annex I Parties and the outcomes of their reviews (see section III).

[1] See FCCC/SBI/2001/18, para. 43.

3. Suggestions related to advancing the review process and considering its outcomes draw upon information contained in document FCCC/SBI/2001/INF.7 as well as on experience gained by the secretariat and government-nominated experts during the in-depth reviews (IDRs) of national communications conducted from 1995 to 2000.

C. Possible action by the SBI

4. The SBI is invited to consider the information contained in this note together with that in document FCCC/SBI/2001/INF.7. Based on the suggestions contained in this note and on the results of the discussion under the present agenda item, the SBI may wish to provide guidance on how information from the IDRs and national communications, as well as numerical data contained in annual inventory submissions, should be considered. The SBI may also wish to consider how the IDR teams could bring forward to the subsidiary bodies and the Conference of the Parties (COP) information on specific issues related to the implementation of the Convention, identified during the review.

II. OVERVIEW OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. This section briefly presents information on the trends of GHG emissions from Annex I Parties for the period 1990 to 1999 based on numerical data contained in document FCCC/SBI/2001/13. An overview of the information contained in other sections of national communications, e.g., policies and measures and projections, is presented in document FCCC/SBI/2001/INF.7 and is not reproduced here.

6. According to numerical data submitted by Annex I Parties,[2] aggregate GHG emissions (excluding land-use change and forestry) exhibit the trends presented in figure 1, which is based on data provided in table 1.

Table 1. Aggregate GHG emissions from Annex I Parties, Gg of CO_2 equivalent

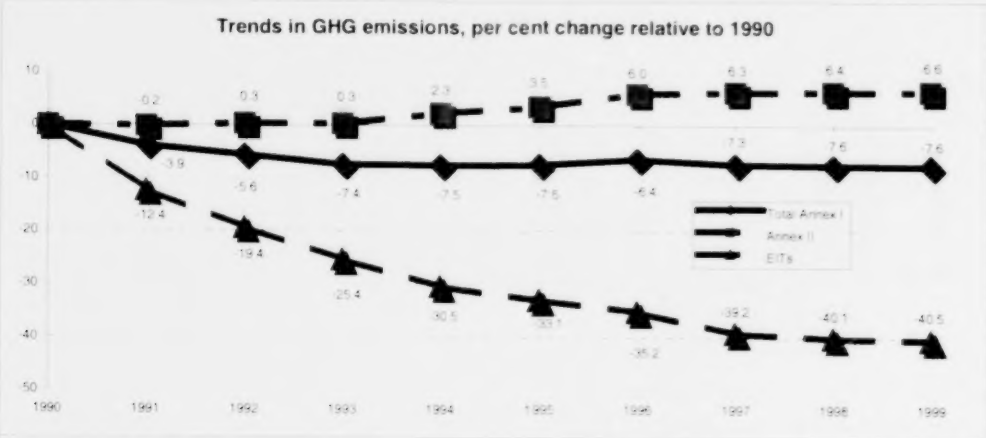
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Annex I	18 149 861	17 451 049	17 129 277	16 800 380	16 780 782	16 793 329	16 990 986	16 817 210	16 777 043	16 775 215
Annex II	12 697 815	12 676 046	12 736 916	12 735 301	12 992 335	13 144 163	13 458 151	13 503 239	13 513 928	13 530 968
EITs	5 452 046	4 775 003	4 392 361	4 065 079	3 788 447	3 649 166	3 532 835	3 313 971	3 263 115	3 244 247

7. As can be seen from figure 1, total aggregate GHG emissions from Annex I Parties as a whole decreased by 7.6 per cent in the period 1990 to 1999. This was due to a combination of a decrease in emissions from Parties with economies in transition (EITs) of 40.5 per cent and an increase of 6.6 per cent in emissions from Annex II Parties.

---

[2] Data gaps due to incomplete reporting by some Annex I Parties with economies in transition (EITs) have been filled in using simple interpolation or the latest available data. For this reason, the numbers presented in table 1 should be considered as preliminary. This however should not radically affect the trends. The data for Croatia are not included in table 1 and figure 1 since they are only available for 1990 to 1995 but are presented instead in table 3 and figure 3.

Figure 1. Trends in GHG emissions for Annex I Parties in the period 1990-1999



8. Emissions from Annex II Parties, after an initial slight decrease in the early 1990s, started to increase, although the rate of growth was less pronounced between 1996 and 1999 than between 1993 and 1996. In EITs, either the rate of decrease in emissions apparently is slowing down or emissions may almost have reached their lowest level and could start increasing in the near future. Although the EITs share in total aggregate GHG emissions from all Annex I Parties decreased from 30 per cent in 1990 to 19 per cent in 1999, any upward trend in emissions from EITs would lead to an increase in emissions from Annex I Parties as a whole, unless emissions from Annex II Parties started to decrease.

9. Changes in aggregate GHG emissions from individual Annex II Parties and EIT Parties are shown in figures 2 and 3, respectively. The figures present the percentage change in emissions in 1995 (striped bar) and in 1999 (solid bar) relative to 1990. Tables 2 and 3 contain absolute numbers used to produce figures 2 and 3.[3]

10. It can be seen from figure 2 and the accompanying table 2 that aggregate GHG emissions were on the increase in the period 1990 to 1999 for the majority of Annex II Parties. Emissions increased in 14 Annex II Parties within the range of less than one per cent (Switzerland) to about 24 per cent (Spain). A decrease was observed in five Annex II Parties with Germany and United Kingdom (approximately 18 and 14 per cent, respectively) exhibiting the most pronounced downward trend among major emitters. It may also be noted that some Annex II Parties, namely Denmark, Japan, Netherlands and Sweden, seem to have reversed the upward trend and, although their emissions in 1999 were still above the 1990 levels, they were lower than in 1995.

---

[3] For the clarity of graphical presentation, figure 2 does not include data for Luxembourg, where aggregate GHG emissions decreased by 24 per cent in 1995 and by 55 per cent in 1999 compared with 1990. Data for Liechtenstein and Monaco were not included in figure 2 due to the small amount of their emissions. Table 2, however, contains data for all Annex II Parties. Table 3 contains some data for Romania, Russian Federation and Ukraine, which are tentative and approximate; these are shown in *italics*.

Figure 2. Changes in aggregate GHG emissions from Annex II Parties; per cent change in 1995 (striped bar) and in 1999 (solid bar) relative to 1990

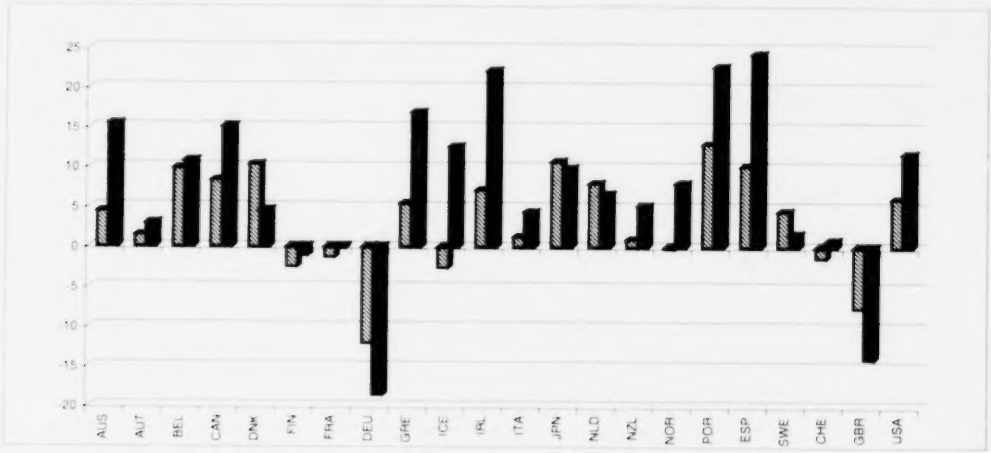


Table 2. Annex II Parties: aggregate GHG emissions (Gg of CO_2 equivalent) and per cent change relative to 1990

	1990	1995	1999	% 95/90	% 99/90
Australia	423 852	442 514	489 092	4.4	15.4
Austria	76 939	78 044	79 224	1.4	3.0
Belgium	136 463	149 853	151 193	9.8	10.8
Canada	607 183	657 772	698 619	8.3	15.1
Denmark	69 951	77 165	73 173	10.3	4.6
Finland	77 093	75 168	76 243	-2.5	-1.1
France	553 262	546 134	552 209	-1.3	-0.2
Germany	1 207 427	1 061 495	982 407	-12.1	-18.6
Greece	105 475	111 192	123 253	5.4	16.9
Iceland	2 939	2 863	3 308	-2.6	12.5
Ireland	53 497	57 317	65 337	7.1	22.1
Italy	518 461	525 042	541 127	1.3	4.4
Japan	1 237 456	1 369 387	1 358 716	10.7	9.8
Liechtenstein	260	n.a.	n.a.	-	-
Luxembourg	13 448	10 223	6 004	-24.1	-55.4
Monaco	100	124	133	24.0	33.3
Netherlands	215 800	232 897	230 085	7.9	6.6
New Zealand	73 064	73 757	76 831	0.9	5.2
Norway	52 027	51 917	56 171	-0.2	8.0
Portugal	64 644	72 974	79 304	12.9	22.7
Spain	305 832	336 739	380 192	10.1	24.3
Sweden	69 562	72 656	70 692	4.4	1.6
Switzerland	53 005	52 285	53 455	-1.4	0.8
United Kingdom	741 882	685 058	637 865	-7.7	-14.0
United States of America	6 038 192	6 401 324	6 746 072	6.0	11.7

Figure 3. Changes in aggregate GHG emissions from Annex I Parties with economies in transition; per cent change in 1995 (striped bar) and in 1999 (solid bar) relative to 1990

Table 3. EIT Parties: aggregate GHG emissions (Gg of CO_2 equivalent) and per cent change relative to 1990*

	1990	1995	1999	% 95/90	% 99/90
Bulgaria	157 090	98 083	77 697	-37.6	-50.5
Croatia	39 391	22 259	n.a.	-43.5	n.a.
Czech Republic	189 839	148 103	140 578	-22.0	-25.9
Estonia	40 732	22 653	19 878	-44.4	-51.2
Hungary	101 633	77 916	86 547	-23.3	-14.8
Latvia	31 025	13 382	13 614	-56.9	-56.1
Lithuania	51 548	*3 000*	*23 851*	-39.9	-53.7
Poland	564 286	416 530	400 260	-26.2	-29.1
Romania	264 879	*164 026*	*164 026*	-38.1	-38.1
Russian Federation	3 040 062	2 065 711	*1 880 000*	-32.1	-38.2
Slovakia	72 530	53 697	51 796	-26.0	-28.6
Slovenia	19 233	*19 233*	*16 000*	0.0	-16.8
Ukraine	919 189	538 833	*450 000*	-41.4	-51.0

* Belarus has not yet submitted its national communication.

11. As can be seen in figure 3 and accompanying table 3, aggregate GHG emissions from EITs in 1999 were well below their 1990 levels with ranges from about –15 per cent for Hungary to more than –56 per cent for Latvia. There appears to be a slight recent upward trend in emissions from Hungary and Latvia. Some signs of a slowing down in the rate of decrease of emissions can be seen in the trends for the Czech Republic, Poland, Russian Federation and Slovakia. Regretfully, incomplete or delayed reporting by some Parties with economies in transition complicates publication of emissions data and their analysis.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION

12. In accordance with decision 33/CP.7, in-depth reviews of national communications due by 30 November 2001 should be completed in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its ninth session.[4] The same decision requests the secretariat to prepare a compilation and synthesis report on the third national communications from Annex I Parties for consideration by the COP at its eighth session.

13. Information on all aspects of activities related to climate change is provided to the secretariat by Annex I Parties in their national communications (with periodicity of three to four years) and in annual GHG inventory submissions. National communications are subject to in-depth review in accordance with decision 2/CP.1.[5] In-depth review consists of two distinct but related activities: publication by the secretariat of a compilation and synthesis report covering all national communications, and publication of individual IDR reports produced by teams of government-nominated experts following their visits to the countries under review. Annual GHG inventory submissions are subject to a separate annual technical review in accordance with decision 6/CP.5.

14. Compilation and synthesis reports summarize information on various sections in national communications and provide an overview of national activities related to the collection of data used in the preparation of GHG inventories, estimation of trends in GHG emissions, implementation of policies and measures and estimation of their effects, preparation of projections, results of research and systematic observation, provision of financial resources, and transfer of technology, as well as in disseminating information and raising public awareness. IDR reports consider these issues in more detail in the national context, providing a thorough technical analysis of national activities related to the implementation of the Convention by Annex I Parties. The technical review of GHG inventory submissions, which is still in the trial period, ensures the reliability of inventory data, including data series reflecting trends in emissions.

A. Options relating to information

15. The data provided in section II above constitute only a fraction of the information that the secretariat could produce for consideration by Parties based on their national communications, annual GHG inventory submissions and their technical reviews, and IDR reports. Examples of additional information that could be provided to Parties are suggested below.

16. Submission of GHG inventory data in 2002, covering the period 1990 to 2000, would allow the secretariat (after completion of the technical review of inventories) to publish a complete set of sectoral and aggregated data for all those years. As this report is expected to be voluminous, it would only be published once. This complete set of GHG inventory data could be considered at COP 9 with a view to assessing implementation of Article 4.2 (a) and (b) of the Convention so far and could also serve as an input to the consideration of demonstrable progress under Article 3.2 at the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

17. In addition to the simple presentation of trends in GHG emissions from Annex I Parties (similar to that provided in section II above), the secretariat could coordinate a more detailed and in-depth analysis of the factors underlying those trends. This analysis could be conducted for important sources of emissions at both aggregated and disaggregated levels. For example, the share of fuel combustion in

---

[4] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh session, see FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1-4.

[5] For decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its first session, see FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1.

aggregate GHG emissions from Annex I Parties as a whole increased slightly from 77.9 per cent in 1990 to 79.5 per cent in 1999, whereas the same share for Annex II Parties increased from 78.6 per cent in 1990 to 80.2 per cent in 1999. In the EITs, the share remained practically unchanged during the same period at 76.2 per cent. Considered in conjunction with other pieces of information, such as national circumstances and trends in emissions from other sources and sectors, a number of insights could be obtained which might shed light on the efficiency and effects of policies and measures in some sectors.

18. The in-depth review of national communications from Annex I Parties due by 30 November 2001 which, according to decision 33/CP.7, should take place in 2002 to 2003 would provide another opportunity to review implementation of commitments of Annex I Parties under the Convention. IDR reports present additional and up-to-date information on implementation of the Convention by Annex I Parties, and consideration of their results by the COP and the SBI could be beneficial for both Parties and the secretariat.

B. Options related to the process

19. In the past, consideration of information provided by Annex I Parties and of the reviews coordinated by the secretariat has been limited to brief discussions on the compilation and synthesis reports prepared by the secretariat on the basis of the first and second national communications. If Parties so wish, a more detailed consideration of the information provided by Annex I Parties in their GHG inventory submissions and in national communications, supplemented by the compilation and synthesis and IDR reports, could be initiated. Some options for a more thorough consideration are presented below.

20. Taking into account the potentially large amounts of information under consideration as well as time constraints, alternatives to brief discussions at the plenary meetings of the COP and the SBI could be envisaged. For example, information and analysis contained in individual IDR reports could be considered and assessed either individually or collectively after all or some IDR reports have been completed and a compilation and synthesis report produced. To facilitate such an assessment, the SBI may wish to consider convening an ad-hoc group of experts on Annex I communications. This group could examine the information contained in several IDR reports as they became available and forward its main findings to the SBI for further consideration. Alternatively, a number of workshops dedicated to consideration of the results of the review could be conducted in 2003 to 2004. A combination of the above approaches could also be envisaged.

21. Teams of government-nominated experts participating in the IDRs on the basis of information and insights obtained during the in-country visit and discussions with host country officials could summarize their views in the form of recommendations for a Party under review. At present IDR reports only contain summary conclusions and some experts have felt that incorporating recommendations in the IDR reports could be beneficial for the Parties particularly if they contained specific suggestions related to reporting and presentation of information, as well as some substantive issues.

22. The secretariat could also prepare a series of in-session presentations focusing on the main results of the IDRs and preliminary analysis of the GHG inventory data. Such presentations (the first ones are planned for the sixteenth session of the subsidiary bodies) could clarify some outstanding issues and would allow Parties to be better prepared for the formal discussions at plenary meetings of the COP and the SBI.

23. In considering the results of the reviews, the SBI may wish to clarify some issues related to the division of labour between the subsidiary bodies. The role of the COP in relation to consideration of

implementation of the Convention by Annex I Parties could also be clarified. For example, the following questions could be answered:

- Which results of the technical review of inventories should be considered by the SBSTA and which by the SBI;
- In what form and at what level of detail should this consideration be conducted;
- What could be done to ensure timely submission of national communications[6] and annual GHG inventory submissions, especially by EIT Parties;
- Should the secretariat strive to prepare reports on the basis of incomplete information, e.g., when there are not enough national communications submitted by Annex I Parties to produce a meaningful compilation and synthesis report;
- What action, if any, should be taken if inadequate information is provided in national communications on, e.g., projections, policies and measures or transfer of technology, and should and attempt be made to remedy such inadequacies during the in-depth review;

24. It is expected that an outcome of the discussion on the above suggestions will give further impetus to the process of consideration of the wealth of information produced in the process of implementation of the Convention. It is hoped that this consideration could be made more meaningful and useful to Parties, for example, if the SBI were to review implementation of the Convention by Annex I Parties every one or two years in a comprehensive way rather than placing national communications from Annex I Parties on the agenda of every SBI meeting. That would also enable the secretariat to serve the Parties better by producing more complete information, thus contributing to the strengthening of the review process and the consideration of its results.

- - - - -

[6] At the time this note was being prepared only 17 out of 40 Annex I Parties had submitted to the secretariat their national communications due by 30 November 2001.